

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. In addition to extension of runway, the apron is being expanded. Necessary civil works have been completed and electrical works are in progress.

Brahmaputra Board

844. SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the North-Eastern States covered under Brahmaputra Board for comprehensive water management and flood control measures; and

(b) the plan of the Government for water management and flood control measures in the States not covered by Brahmaputra Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) Out of the seven North-Eastern States, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya are completely covered under comprehensive water management and flood control measures of Brahmaputra Board. Other States Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur and Nagaland are partly covered under the jurisdiction of the Brahmaputra Board. The Brahmaputra Board was established by the Union Government to provide for the planning and integrated implementation of measures for the control of flood and bank erosion in both the Brahmaputra and Barak valleys.

(b) The measures for water management and flood control in the States not covered by Brahmaputra Board are planned, investigated and implemented by the concerned State Governments as these are primarily the responsibilities of the State Governments.

Expenditure Tax on Hotel Tariff

845. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to exempt the foreign tourists from expenditure tax on hotel tariff;

(b) if so, whether such tax is proposed to be levied on other items of expenditure like food and all other services; and

(c) if so, the reasons for taking such decision and the impact on common man as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) The payment of hotel bills by foreign tourists is taxable under the Expenditure-tax Act, 1967. There is no proposal

to exempt the foreign tourists to pay tax under the aforementioned Act.

(b) Tax is levied on any expenditure incurred in a hotel where the room tariff is Rs 1200/- or more per day per person.

(c) The Expenditure-tax was introduced mainly for those who could afford to patronize high class hotels.

Schemes for Minority Students

846. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the various schemes for the welfare of the students of minority community; and

(b) the number of students benefitted during the last two years and so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) The following schemes are in operation for the welfare of the students of minority community.

- (i) Area Intensive Programme for Educationally Backward Minorities;
- (ii) Scheme of Financial Assistance for Modernisation of Madarsa Education.
- (iii) Scheme of Community Polytechnics;
- (iv) Scheme for Coaching Classes for Competitive Examinations for Weaker Sections amongst Educationally Backward Minority Community; and
- (v) Scheme of Pre-examination Coaching Classes run by the Ministry of Welfare.

Details are given in the Statement-I attached.

Besides the above schemes which are exclusively operating for welfare of Minorities, the following schemes are also contributing to educational development of Minorities:

- (i) Non-formal Education Centres;
- (ii) Scheme of Eradication of illiteracy, TLC;
- (iii) Scheme of Mid-day Meals;
- (iv) District Primary Education Programme (DPEP); and
- (v) Scheme of Operation Black Board.